

Good afternoon Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee.

My name is Linda Nelson, and I am here for the second time to state my concern for my two granddaughters' education. I know I speak for other parents, grandparents, and care givers that have children in the CREC Choice program.

I am against bill SB830 I thought after hearing about how much this program has helped improve our children's education that you would decide to leave the CREC Choice program as is.

I have not heard any negative concerns from your committee to feel the need to change anything about our program. The CREC Choice program, like I have stated in the past is our bridge to a more successful education for our children.

Any changes would be devastating to our children and caregivers. We have a family-like relationship with all staff members. They know the students and parents on a personal as well as professional level.

- 1) When my granddaughters bus is late after school they put me on hold until they locate the bus, and tell me approximately how long before she'll reach home.
- 2) If the driver happens to miss a pick up, CREC makes sure that child gets picked up within the hour.
- 3) If there is a problem between students, there are staff members to communicate with the student, the bus driver, and the school staff. All problems are solved in a timely manner and the results are positive, meaning that students become friends or at least treat each other with respect.
- 4) The CREC Choice program also holds family gatherings for Christmas, potluck dinners, and parties just to show our children how much they appreciate their hard work. Not to mention out of state trips to show how much they appreciate the dedication of those that make the honor roll and student of the month.

We as parents and caregivers can't always afford these rewards that the CREC Choice programs so generously give our children, and we appreciate them because they are our extended family. I doubt very seriously that the State, or any other agency can continue the dedicated work that the staff at out CREC choice program has worked so hard to provide, excellent service to so many families.

Thank you,
Linda Nelson